Examination and Censure

OF

Several Medicines, of late years Extol'd for Universal remedies, and Arcana's of the highest preparation;

BEING

Indeed some of them trivial toyes, by mistake cryed up for what they are not, others dangerous virulent venoms falsely commended for rare wonder-working mysteries;

Namely,

Lockyers pill, *Hughes* pouder, *Constantines* Spirit of Salt, with several other of that kind, by which the Art of Pyrotechny is in danger of being brought into Reproach and Contempt.

From the injury of which pretenders true Chymistry is vindicated, and the disguise pluckt off from Counterfeit Artists, who are discovered to be a pack of ignorant Scioliststand vain-glorious Boasters of what they know not, nor can perform.

By *George Starkey*, who is a Philosopher by the Fire.

Licensed *September* the [illegible] 1664.

LONDON, Printed for the Author

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Licensed September the 30. 1664.

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A BRIEF
Examination and Censure
OF
Several Medicines of late years Extoll'd for Universal remedies, and Arcana's of the Highest preparation.

IN the year 1651. and continuing from that time till 1655. I began publickly to use in my Medicinal practise, several succedaneous Remedies for the Cure of Diseases, (acute especially) of which in my Natures explication and *Helmonts* vindication, as also in my *Pyrotechny* asserted and illustrated, I gave a faithful account, and my Medicines were grown famous without Bills or Books, both in City and Countrey; at last one Mr. *Mathews* prevailed with me so far as to impart unto him my middle way for preparation and correction of Vegetables, in defect of the great Dissolvent of *Helmont* and *Paracelsus*, namely by alcalizate salts and

essential united together by a long digestion, and reiterated imbibitions.

This way of preparation although a true natural way, yet at the best and highest, is but a succedaneous or middle process to that of the great Circulate, and this by me communicated, the most inferior of its kind, as I have elsewhere more fully declared: For first it was wholly Vegetable, whereas by the same way Mineral Sulphurs might be extracted, Corrected and Exalted, and joyned with the Vegetable composition, by which it would have been improved in vertue an hundred fold. But secondly, it was not by far the noblest Vegetable preparation, which that way leads unto; For, I have upon occasion, not onely made an union of the Salt and oyl, but also circulated them into a true volatile Spirit, and with them extracted Aromatick and Balsamick tinctures, which being truely essentificated, are by *Paracelsus* called *Vinum essata*, of which in my Pyrotechny asserted I have discoursed fully and plainly which *Helmont* speaks of in his Book of Fevers, in these words. *He that knows how to turn the oyl of Cinnamon, Cloves, &c. into the nature of a volatile Saline Spirit, hath at command a powerful Medicine, for the Asthma, Consumption, Palsey, Apoplexy, and inveterate Vertigo, or swimming of the head, &c.* which

will perform as much as can be expected from any Vegetable remedy.

However, as I elsewhere have written more at large, that way of preparation is a true natural way, and of very general use in the practice of Physick, for (*frustra fit per plura, quod fieri potest per pauciora*) multitudes of truculent diseases very violent and acute, are by effectual absterſives safely, speedily and pleasantly taken away, without danger of relapse. But where the disease respects the Spirits chiefly, or where in acute diseases the Spirits are oppressed, or violently inraged (the vital spirits I mean) there such purely defecated remedies are required, that may insinuate themselves into, and relieve the languishing fountain of life.

Otherwise a powerful absterſive, (especially if it have a pacative vertue mixt with it to pacifie the enraged Archeus) will perform the desires of both Patient and Physitian in Surfeits, Colds, Coughs, Fluxes, Fevers, Pleurisies, tormenting gripes of wind in the Stomack or Bowels, running pains in the joynts or limbs, oppression of the Stomack, want of Appetite Digestion, Rest, or the like. And so far my pill communicated to Mr. *Mathews* is of general use, that almost in any distemper, that ordinarily afflicts the body, it may be given with credit to the Physitian, and Comfort to

the Patient, as in my vindication of this Pill from the unlearned Alchymist, and all other pretenders, I have sufficiently declared; to which I remit the Reader, as also to my Pyrotechny, and Natures Explication for larger, yea, full satisfaction.

My Pill then which Mr *Mathews* challenged for many years, is a true Correction of the lethal qualities of Opium, in which is not onely an eminent pacative vertue, but experience shows it to be admirably absterſive, by both sweat, and urine, which absterſive quality is heightned and advanced by the Oyls and Salt, as also by the addition of some or other absterſive simples as *Hellebore*, black or white, *Asarum*, *Briony* &c. which are also by the aforesaid Corrector of Oyl and Salt totally stript of all their malignity, whose vertues being joyned together make an excellent Febrifuge, and a singular remedy for Coughs and Fluxes.

Which preparation by much experience in these nine years (since I taught Mr. *Mathews* to make it) I have amended and advanced beyond credit, yet the unlearned Alchymist making use of the press, hath made his more ordinary Pill so famous in City and Countrey, that the repute of the Author is swallowed up in the larger stream of his Credit and Fame, Yea, although those who know

me, and deal with me, find so great difference in goodness between mine and his, that they would scarce buy of that sort from me at any rate, yet I finde that as long as they that learned of him, and his Widow, print every day Bills and Books, and by advertisements in the News-book give notice far and near of their preparations, if I be silent, I shall spend my time in obscurity, by which means people who never read my Books, nor heard of me, will not know me to be the Author, so I shall lose the credit of my Secret, nor perhaps will ever understand how much I have mended this preparation, and in more difficult cases, how far exceeding remedies I do and can prepare: but thinking this to be the best that can be had (the unlearned Alchymist foolishly boasting it beyond its limits of vertue) will sit down either content with this inferior sort, when far nobler may be had, or hearken out after some other things which of late are grown famous, but are indeed dangerous venoms, as I shall by and by more at large set forth.

At the least this medicine being now fallen into many hands, will as all things do of the like nature, grow dayly worse and worse, which as it will be a great loss to those that are concerned in the need of it, so it will fall as an inevitable disgrace upon the Art, and

redound to my both dammage and diſcredit.

For Mr. *Mathews* was by me taught my moſt common way then in uſe, which he did not follow with that Candor as he ſhould, and might, but graſping at a vaſt trade, did too ſhamefully prevaricate in the direction he had from me, as Mr. *Kendall*, Mr. *Andrews*, Mr. *Luddington*, and Mrs. *Marden* know, by which neglect his Pills bind the body obſtinately, and cauſe the next day giddineſs, great drought, faintings, dejected appetite, ſuſpenſion of wind, ſottiſh drowſineſs, &c. for want of the cloſing hand of a true Artiſt, which he, haſty to get a trade, neglected at firſt, to adviſe with me concerning, and having wronged me in uſing my ſecret as his own, in his own name, had not the face afterwards to addreſs himſelf to me to learn to mend, ſo that although much good be done by his pill, yet far leſs then might be done thereby, if thoſe ſymptoms had been by full and compleat preparation taken away, which affright ſome from medling with them, and diſhearten others ſo as to make them weary of, and leave uſing them.

Therefore I did according to the dictate of reaſon, and impulſion of neceſſity in a ſhort Tractate vindicate that preparation from all

preten-

pretenders, and have pitcht upon one general Pill or powder, which will be more efficacious then that of Mr. *Mathews*, or any other publickly made by many degrees, and have given a short Index or Catalogue of other secrets, with description of the vertue, and directions for the use of this and them, the time, dose, and manner of ordering the patient in applying them, and in what cases they are chiefly effectual.

For the necessity of that vindication, and Catalogue, this Apology I hope will be satisfactory to rational persons, and for others I shall take little notice whether they are pleased or discontented. As for the shortness of that Tractate I shall say no more, but that it is a necessary direction of such whom it concerns, what is to be had for recovering their health and where, and how to make use of what is directed, for which end, short and plain advice is requisite, and sufficient. They that would have the Philosophy and reason of things at large, for satisfying their judgements, I commend them to my writings already extant, and I shall God willing hereafter send forth what other Tractates I have promised, which the studious in the Art of Pyrotechny expect, and have for some years desired, but shall not be long delayed for future.

Thus having made a fair and friendly end with the unlearned Alchymist and his followers, I meet a many headed Chymical Monster, which I must encounter, or else the Art of Pyrotechny will be in danger of Contempt, scorn, and reproach, which I shall not willingly suffer to be cast upon it, at least, with colour of reason, and appearing just grounds.

For of late years the formerly contemned Art of Pyrotechny, begins to have many favourers, and I may without boasting say, at least ten for one. Since I sent forth my Apology for *Helmont*, and his way of Medicine, which was seconded by my Pyrotechny asserted, &c. and now a man would bless himself to think what a number of Coleburners there are, and how they dayly multiply, many of whom one could scarce imagine of any other extraction, but that they grew out of some dunghil: such heteroclyte pieces of Mortality, as Weavers, Taylors, Botchers, Coblers, and who not, of late have thrown aside their bodkin and thimble, last, awle, and shuttle, and are become (*Assimi ad Lyram*) like so many Apes in a Carpenters work-room, Philosophers of the date of *Jonas* Gourd, (which sprung up in a night, flourished for a day, was smitten the next night, and

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the second day withered, and became scarce fit for the fire.

A man might perswade himself that the world were lately drowned in ignorance, as the Poets fable it was once with waters, in *Deucalions* time, after which *Cataclysm* he and his wife *Pyrrha*, were taught to throw stones over their backs, which soon after became men and women, and so repeopled the universe, in imitation of whom some Chymist or other surely hath lately cast loggs of wood over his back, from whence have sprung up such stupid, blockish Philosophers, as are or may be the scorn & derision of Art and ingenuity it self.

These Mushroms in Physiosophy dream of themselves that they are tall Cedars in Chymistry, and from the Dark bosom of Nothing, they straightway soar to the pitch of Universality in Medicine. It is enough for them to get a Catalogue of diseases, which though they can scarce spell in true Orthography, yet will promise to cure them certainly, with an &c. That if any more diseases either are, or hereafter happen to be, wo be to them at all adventure, they have a wonder-doing trifle, that shall destroy them as soon as they appear. I long debated with my self whether or no I should meddle with this generation of boasting bubbles, and their

bables

baubles, or let them go unregarded, as not worth the notice taking of a true son of Art, and though the latter course more pleased me, and suited my genius, rather to scorn and neglect them, then do them so much honour and credit, as to examine and refute them; yet at last I resolved not to pass them over in silence, among many other, for these special reasons.

1. First because I having publickly Vindicated the Excellency of Chymistry from its real adversaries, and profest enemies, and my Books being taken notice of in the world (I may say with modesty) not without approbation of many that are learned and judicious, not in this Nation onely, but in foreign Countries and Kingdoms, it may be justly expected, that I who have defended this Art from the injuries of open adversaries, should not suffer it to be reproached by the absurd pretences of seeming Friends. For if on the one hand trifles be cryed up with the Elogies of powerful Arcana's, and on the other hand dangerous Venomes boasted to the world for true universal remedies, what a door will by this means be opened to Calumny, there is none so blind, but may easily perceive.

2. Secondly, I having promised to the world in my last published Tractate of Pyrotechny, that I would expose to publick

sale

sale true Chymical medicines, with large description of their vertues, and full directions for their use, and the performance of this my promise having been delayed, for these several years, in the mean time this spurious off-spring coming abroad, with glorious titles, and golden promises abusing and deceiving the simple and unwary. What may people think, or can they imagine, but that these medicines are indeed such as were by me commended, or that I know and approve them to be of that vertue and Excellency which the Books written of them do boast in their praise; or at least that I know no other that are better? There can be in reason no other conjecture made of my silence, in case I should let pass without animadversion these Chymical mockeries: and well it were, if that were all, for some of them are so virulently malignant, and dangerously venemous, that I cannot but concur in the censure of noble *Helmont* concerning them, to wit, that *Antimony* so long as it causeth vomits, and *Mercury* while it may be revived (and that it will easily be so long as its infamous salivative Venome remaines uncorrected) are not remedies fit for an honest man to use.

3. Thirdly, Since it hath been known that I was Author of that Pill for which Mr. *Mat*

shews was famous for many years, it is now the judgement of many that I am either Author of, or have a hand in, whatever Chymical medicine is cryed up, and hath a name in City and Country, and consequently whatever infamy they shall deserve for future, either upon the score of their insufficiency, for what they are commended, or villany in operation, will in the opinion of many blemish my reputation, unless I publickly disown and protest against them.

4. The Art it self will be in hazard of contempt and being rejected, if not of hatred and being abhorred, when people shall observe partly the ridiculous effect of some trivial toyes, and partly the desperate operation of some other churlish venoms, which yet both the one, and the other, are highly extolled for true universal secrets in medicine, and rare efficacious mysteries in nature, by pitiful ignorant Scioliſts, who are masters of nothing but ignorant confidence.

5. It would confirm the old scandal, that hath been from the beginning thrown upon Chymical medicines, to wit, that they are full of Danger, and quickly either Kill or Cure. Now it behoves him that would be a Champion for Pyrotechny to meet with these reproaches betime, and nip them in the Bud.

Ernſtra

Frustra Medicina paratur
Cum mala per longas invaluêre moras.

6. Unless this remedy of disclaiming such Chymical fooleries be seasonably (that is, speedily applyed) the abused people finding their expectation (once & again) deluded by such quacking Empericks, will in a short time come to suspect all Chymical preparations, for such as they, or others, with little or no profit, perhaps to their Cost, and Extream hazard have Experienced. They will at last startle at the very name of a Chymical medicine, as at the appearance of some ghastly Ghost or spectrum. Away willl one cry with your Chymistry, for such a time I took an universal Pill or Powder, and escaped very narrowly of being sent by it on a fools errand out of the world: besides such a person took it, who in few dayes, or perhaps not many hours, was so perfectly cured thereby of all diseases, as to lie covered with a Tombestone. Such true reports of the pernicious effects of some Catholick venom, will stick as an indelible blot of infamy, to blemish true and real Chymical medicines, unless the disguise be pluckt off from such counterfeit preparations, under which they march with the greatest confidence imaginable, promising

wonders

wonders, though upon no ground, and without the least truth, to the disgrace of Pyrotechny, and its true Adept sons, except the Cheat of them be discovered and laid open to the world.

7. And lastly, I have been almost wearied with sollicitations, both by word of mouth, and letters from several persons here in Town, and living in divers parts of the Countrey, to know what my judgement is concerning such and such (highly extolled) medicines. Whom not to undeceive and disabuse, lying in my power to do it, would in effect be the same as to abuse them. *Qui non prohibet malum (quod potest) jubet.*

And so I come at length to answer the importunities of such who have requested my opinion and Censure of the forementioned perparations, and shall begin with that known by the name of

Lockyers Pill, or *Pillula extracta Radiis solis.*

Concerning which I have seen and read a Tractate Written, likewise Tables on a board exposed commending it without either Reason or measure. Who was first Godfather to the Pill, I know not, but its name at the Begin-

ning

ning was as absolute an Abortive in *Grammar*, as the Pill it self was in Philosophy, and Pyrotechny, and was called *Pilluradii Extractus solus*, the interpretation of which would puzzle a Synod of Grammarians, though since the Pill hath learned so much true Latine, as to proclaime its name *Pillula radiis solis extracta*, which was the meaning of the former barbarous denomination, as might be collected from its gaping, rather then speaking.

By which licking of its name till it had some tolerable shape, as Bears are said to lick their whelps, and by other manifest symptomes, it appears that the Book in commendation of this new bawble, was midwif'd into the world by some of the forlorn hope of the Schools of learning, in reading which with seriousness, I was surprized with a double admiration. First, That any man of common discretion, should run into such Extravagant sesquipedantick Rodomontadoes in praise of a preparation, which is (*absit invidia dictis*) one of the poorest, meanest, and most vulgar, that is or can be made of *Antimony* by the fire. Secondly, That such a pitiful toy, and more pitiful Scribble in praise of it, should among any that pretend to reason find other acceptance then derision, his brags concerning it appearing at first view so pal-

pably grosse, as to try the faith of a *Solisidian*, for confirmation of which wonderful effects, to have nothing but the (*ipse dixit*) of one, who in his too lavish boastings would outdo a profest Mountebanck, and yet to find so much credit as to become famous, speaks the levity and madness of the people advanced to such a degree and height, as to incur the censure of *Orestes* himself, when most distracted.

Those expressions which I finduse in its commendation, *viz.* that it is the best thing which ever he met with or desires, may in some sense be true, and we have an English proverb fit to the purpose, Give a fool or a child a bawble, and he will not leave it for a noble. Gold it self may be, and oft is overvalued by a wise man, no marvel then if a butterfly or a play-toy be overprized by a Schoolboy. And a pretty play-toy I must confess this is, if that were all, nor should I ever censure it, if it did not play with the skins and lives of mankind.

I shall not say of this Pill that it is *praeparatio insulsa*, having in it a double Salt, to wit, common and Salt-petre, but this I shall confidently affirm of it, and the Charcoal in it will confirm my sentence, that it is *Nigra carbone notanda*.

He that shall commend this, or any other

prepa-

preparation like unto this so highly as I find that to be, if his breast assents to the truth of what he writes with his pen, deserves to be sent from the School of *Vulcan* to pick Sallets with *Nebuchadnezzar*, till the dew of Heaven have cooled his overheated noddle, so as to understand himself, and his operations a little better then he doth.

The preparation is at best but a Crocus of *Antimony*, and so much more churlish then the common made as the Apothecaries prepare it by flushing with ana of Saltpetre, by how much the neerer it comes glass, or *vitrum* of Antimony. For the Charcoal, and Sea-salt which are mixt in the composition, give it an easier fluxibility in the fire, which quickens and makes more active, doth no way extinguish, correct or diminish the virulency of Antimony. As for instance, Let one part of Antimony be calcined with three parts of Saltpetre, the Calx (if the work be well done) will be very white, from which the saltness being separated by hot water, and the powder dried, it is then called *Antimonium Diaphoreticum*, which may be given from ten to 30. grains, without any vomitive effect ordinarily, but if this powder before the Salt be washed from it, be melted in a Crucible by a strong fire, then poured forth, and dulcified with warm

water, and after dryed, it gives a powder in colour rather whiter then the forementioned *Antimonium Diaphoreticum*, but in its churlish vomitive quality equal either to Crocus or *vitrum* it self. So it is proportionably in this mock-preparation disguised under the name of *Panacea Aurea*, or *Pillula radii solis extracta*, which two preparations (I would have the reader take notice) are the same and Synonymous, and do really exceed ordinary Crocus in their venoms rigor, and this is the highest attainment (after infinite brags and boastings) of these bungling Sophisters, whose idle rhapsodies deserve rather a satyrical derision, then any other kind of Confutation.

Let no man bless himself with hopes of the Pills excellency, by reason of the small dose in which it is administred, for since its natural, ordinary, and proper effect is forcibly to provoke vomit, the lesser the dose is, the greater and quicker malignity it argues in that which is administred. As for the great cures that are noised about, and attributed to this Pill, I doubt not but these reports (upon moderate enquiry) will be found to be like to the shearing of hogs, where the squeaking far exceeds the wooll. I would not be understood as though I deny a possibility of great and unexpected cures by this means

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but say, that they are adventured on with danger and hazard, by reason of deficiency in the Antimonies correction. Nor a hundreth part so notable and certain cures, as may be made by Antimony totally corrected, exalted, glorified and perfected, besided the absolute safety joyned with soverain Excellency in such true preparations, which in these uncorrected venoms is not to be expected. But lastly, compare this with other preparations of Antimony, which were once famous, till their desperate danger, (that is inseparable from the vertue of such false operations) brought them at last to become deservedly infamous, and see if there be any thing new in this, transcending them; nay, if there be any odds, it is, that this not so effectual and safe as some of them.

For there are several processes in Antimony, the products of which, at their first coming upon the stage have been extolled to the the Heavens, yet wanting real worth to confirm and make good their commendations, they have in short time been laid aside, like a crackt Bagpipe, or instrument out of tune, though their first appearance in publick was usshered in with as large a Catalogue of Cures, as this is or can be. For (as *Basilius Valentine* truely saith, *The vertues of Antimony are so great, and inexplicable, that no mortal man*

can ever be able to search out the bottom of its secrets and mysteries. Even crude as it comes out of the earth it is of great vertue. Howbeit it is nothing so powerful, penetrative, absterfive, and renovative in its grosse substance, nor in any preparation that doth not extinguish its venom, as it is when its central profundity is by art manifested, and its Arcanum made to appear. Of which I shall Godwilling write more fully in a peculiar tractate concerning the mysteries of Antimony. Here I shall onely compare this new invention, with other old ones of the like kind, to see if we can find any thing peculiar herein, that excels the others; and upon serious and sober enquiry, I find no such thing. The relief that the sick may expect hence, is no other, then that which a man half starved may receive from a loaf of Bread fastned to the point of a sharp spear, and darted at him, the loaf may refresh his hunger-pincht stomack, and save his life, but the deadly spear threatens as much or more danger, then the bread promiseth relief. The tree of life is guarded with armed and angry Cherubims, whose flaming sword is to be taken away by the true Artist, that so the restoring fruit may be enjoyed with profit and safety, but trust me this *Absaloms* pillar will perfom no such thing. Yet it may answer expectation in

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keeping up the name and memory. *Eroſtratus* who burnt *Diana's* Temple Eterniz'd his memory, when the builders of it lie buried in oblivion. A famous Quack will be longer remembred then a skilful Doctor of ordinary practice, but the memory of one and the other differs exceedingly. *Thais* of *Corinth* hath outlived the remembrance of all the noble Matrons, and honeſt women, that were coetaneous with her, and ſo *Lockyers* Pill may be more durable then a Grave-ſtone, but ſo as to be contemned, derided, and become the byword of every Practitioner, when the remembrance of its formet credit and eſteem, will add to its preſent and future infamy. Such a name I would not envy.

With what applauſe did the *Antimonial cup* court the world, and that of late years? of which an Antient Divine, publiſhed a book in its praiſe, boaſting of as many cures done by it, as might ſerve for a prologue on a Mountebanks ſtage at Tower-hill or Smithfield. Beſides, the writings of moſt profound Philoſophers, were tortured upon the Rack of that Authors Ingeny, to make them confeſs that all the excellency which in their moſt deep and myſterious ſentences, they boaſt to be in their hidden Elixars and Mercury is true of this Chymical toy. And I dare affirm on my Credit, nor do I doubt but my

experience in the Art of Pyrotechny, will be believed by those that know me, sufficient to allow me for a competent judge in this case, that the effects of the Antimonial Cup equal at least, if they exceed not the effects of this (so called) Golden *Panacæa*, or Pills extracted by the Solar rayes, of which I may say truely, It is *tituli magniloqui trufa*, at the best an Ape clad in a jacket of tissue, where the gay cloathing doth onely add to the beasts deformity. But let all sons of Art know, that diseases are not to be chased away with swelling titles, and bombast names.

What need I mind the Reader of the fame which once the Crocus of Antimony had in the world, the infusion whereof was by *Rulandus* an eminent *German* Doctor intitled (*aqua benedicta*) to which he attributes many Centuries of cures, prodigiously admirable, yea almost incredible, Nor hath the *vitrum* of Antimony wanted both its favourers and admirers, as I could name several Authors both famous and learned. So also *Mercurius vitæ*, reckoned by *Bilichius* as the Apex of Chymical preparations, though he erroneously ascribes that off-spring to the parent Mercury (from whom also it hath its name) yet it is indeed wholly the product of Antimony, as experience may

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make it appear to any that is ingenious in the School of *Vulcan*, by ocular demonstration, beyond denial or doubt.

All these and many other preparations of Antimony, (too tedious here to name) had their time of being extolled almost for working of Miracles, yet because of their malignant virulency, have at length been laid aside as so many dangerous fiends, not to be conjured up in Medicine, without the help, Art, and advice of a very skilful Exorcist, or Doctor.

Such a Devil in a new dress, is this lately invented Pill, as by an ordinary flux may be made to appear in a quarter of an hour, by which means these Pills will quickly and easily give at least a third part of their weight in *Regulus*, to the inexcusable disgrace of him that prepares and commends them, who very disingeniously, and without the least truth (as I am informed) denyes them to be at all Antimonial, of which nevertheless they are the most contemptible preparation.

As for the Sun-beams which the title page, and the very name of the Pill promise, or seem to promise, I am confident the Master of the Pill cannot tell what he understands himself, or would have others to understand by the Periphrasis. Whether they

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be extracted, prepared, and maturated by the Sun-beams, as the Grammar ſenſe carries it, or they are brought to perfection by the influence of Gold, figuratively called the Sun by Philoſophers, or at leaſt have the quality, nature and vertue, and do that in the Microcoſm, which the Sun doth in the Macrocoſm, let what will be the Reaſon of that title, if they be not made by the beams or heat of the Sun, or dryed up, and brought to a Conſiſtence thereby, it is a groundleſs inſipid denomination. It is a new name ſignifying juſt nothing. Men are ſaid to be judged by the names they give to their Children, ſure I am, Philoſophers may be judged by the titles they give to their ſecrets. Here is a ſecret of whoſe name and title we may ſay, as the Angel once ſaid of his name to *Manoah*, It is wonderful! Wonderful to me, what affinity Charcoal, Sea-ſalt, Saltpetre, and Antimony have with the Sun-beams? what the Crucible the mixture is melted in? the fire that melts it? the water that dulcifies it? the Sugar, Gums, &c. that make the powder into a Pill, any of theſe, or all put together, he that can make out to my underſtanding, how they denote the Solar rayes, either really or analogically, ſhall be my Oedipus: till then my wonder will and muſt continue.

How-

Howbeit as I before hinted out of *Basilius Valentine*, in Antimony are most noble arcana's hidden, but not to be prepared by the hand of every ignorant Scioliſt, concerning which this caution of *Helmont* is univerſally true, and not to be neglected, that Antimony, while it cauſeth vomit, and ☿ while Salivative are not medicaments fit for an honeſt man to uſe.

If any ſhall object that *Lockyers* Pill works with ſome ſcarce perceptibly, I anſwer, ſo will the Antimonial Cup, Crocus, or vitrum of Antimony, in a full doſe with ſome robuſt natures, but this univerſal Pill, or rather poyſon, is given in ſo ſmall doſe at firſt and gradually increaſed, that ſcarce Arſenick, Orpiment, or Realgar would prove lethally dangerous, if given in the ſame quantity, which beguiling nature with an inſufficient doſe, and gradual adminiſtration, is a pernicious prevarication againſt the ſure rules of the true Art of Medicine, which preſcribe, that whatever noxious is given internally, be given with great caution in reſpect of the parties ſtrength, age, and other circumſtances, yet in a ſufficient quantity to work it ſelf out, leſt by this means of impoſing on natures diſcretion, with a virulent venom given in a too ſmall doſe, an enemy be lodged

within

within, ready upon occasion to work an inevitable mischief, when nature beguiled by the small dose of an absolute poyson shall be least aware of it, and not able to prevent, or remedy it, for where the Archeus of the stomack is not sufficiently provoked to vomit, nor the pylorus, mesaraicks, and bowels to an artificial dysentery, or purging, (as it hath fallaciously got a name) there at least provident nature involves the offensive powder (or pill) in a flegmatick incloſure (as a spider doth a fly in its web) and so gradually as more is taken in it covers it, till with the heat of the stomack and continuance, this secondine break or dissolve, then follow continual vomitings, and looſneſs with Syncope's, deliquia's, and other tragical symptoms, and perhaps the life of the Patient payes for the folly of the ignorant Artist; at least an indelible malignant Character is imprinted upon the bowels, and viscera, which by no Art perhaps is after to be remedied, or with extream difficulty. Hence arise continual palpitations of the heart, involuntary sighings, oppression of the vitals, with most difficult breathing, as durable as the life, to the amazement and horror of beholders. And truely it was to gratifie the importunate requests of several, who from *Bristol*, *Lincolnshire*, *Oxfordshire*, *Kent*, *Surry*, *Suſſex*, &c. have solicited

licited my opinion of these Pills, with reciting several apparent, undeniable, inexcusable tragedies ensuing after, and caused by the taking of them, that caused me thus far to travel in the Anatomy of them, and discovering their true nature, vertue, and danger, that a record may be for future in behalf of Pyrotechny, that the Philosopher by the fire hath publickly protested against them, and given caution to that purpose.

No less Dangerous is that Mercurial preparation not more famous about the Town and in the Countrey, for its monstrous price, then infamous for its salivative quality, of which an ounce of fine gold is but the purchase of eight grains, and that quantity exceeds a single dose but one grain. This powder is onely *Bradshaw* revived with a double value set upon the medicine by his successor. It is an odd and old folly of the vulgar, to value the goodness and excellency of a thing according to its price, so that it is become a proverb, far fetcht, and dear bought is for Ladies: but if it were truely known how little this powder in vertue exceeds common and ordinary precipitate, men would hardly be perswaded to give after the rate of two hundred and forty pounds an ounce for it, and might have the common that wants little or

nothing

nothing of its goodneſs for leſs then a ſhilling.

Yet if the detrimnet of the purſe were all the miſchief that attended this old new invention, I could be content to let it paſs, and ſuffer the people to be laſht for the itch of their curioſity with a ſilver whip. But when that comes to be hazarded by it, that is ſo far better then eſtate, (even the life of man kind,) for which to redeem it from the pit, man would willingly give, not onely all that he enjoyeth, but skin for skin beſides; in ſuch a caſe I cannot let it paſs without notice and cenſure, that if men will be fooliſh, and hazard their lives, and health to extream danger, by adventuring on unfaithful remedies, it may be on their own ſcore, and not be imputed to the inſufficiency of the Art, which is properly the fault of ignorant, yet confident Artiſts.

The preparation is onely a precipitate of ☿, and if any Gold be added in precipitation, if the precipitation be made with a Corroſive, it is at beſt a deluſion, for what diſſolves meddles not with Gold, nor will *aqua regia* that diſſolves gold, work on it alike, when mixed with ☿, or if they were corroded together, or by bare digeſtion precipitated, without

without a corrosive, so long as there is no alteration, nor union of their natures, the product is inconsiderable, the ☿ is not in the least amended of its salivative venom, nor is the body of ☉ in the least opened or altered, but as to all medicinal vertue is dead, as it was before precipitation; so that it is a clog (if any thing) to the ☿; but gold reducible as before: for trial, let this powder be put in a small crucible, in a heat of fusion for ☽, or a smaller degree, the ☿ goes away in a white smoak, and if a piece of gold be held over the fume in a pair of tongs, the ☿ straightway cleaves to it, and whitens it, and stands in a pearly dew of crude ☿, if any part abide, that may be gold or silver; but because it is corporally metalline, (as it was before) it adds nothing of medicinal vertue to the ☿. I deny not but in Corrosive dissolutions, the Corroded metal or ☿, may and doth give a determination of efficacy to the coagulated salt of the dissolving spirit, as it is in the Lunar Pills, of which the honorable *Robert Boyl* Esquire hath written much in their commendation. But where ☿ is dissolved by a Corosive, the product becomes too churlish to be given (almost in any dose) without washing away the Corrosive salts by warm water, and when at the sweetest (that water can bring it too) the ☿ still impresses on the [illegible] of

ſalt which remain its odious quality of ſalivation, and tormenting the the Inteſtines and viſcera; that oft times the tragical operation thereof, becomes a ſpectacle of horror and aſtoniſhment. And though ☿ may have many, and thoſe excellent vertues, in its own nature, (as the Elogy of *John Woodall* a famous Chirurgeon teſtifies in its praiſe) yet till a true Philoſophical preparation thereof be made, it is attended with ſo manay infamous qualities, and dangerous ſymptomes, as juſtly to brand the unadviſed uſer thereof, with a mark of ignorance at beſt, if not of unfaithfulneſs and diſhoneſty.

The ground of miſtake in thoſe that work both on ♁ and ☿, is the Commendation that is truely given by the ſons of Art to the Arcana's that by the labour of wiſdom, are to be prepared out of both, ſuch are the Corrallatum or Precipiolum of *Paracelſus*, which is his Diaceltateſſon, (of which I have written in my Catalogue and Index of medicines by me prepared, with directions for their uſe &c.) which cures radically the Gout, and Lues, all Fevers, the Dropſey, and Ulcers of the Lungs, Kidnies and Bladder, the Horizontal gold alſo, which is truely univerſal, the Sacharine Ens, or Ladanum

of

of ☿ the Lily of ☽, the stone of the fire of *Basilius Valentine*, with other of the like nature, which mundify, cleanse and restore nature, so as to renew the hair, the skin, and teeth, and powerfully extirpate all diseases radically. After which secrets rash ignorant pretenders seeking long in vain, fall at last to actual imposture, and boast of trivial preparations in which the form of ☿ is only disguised, as if they were indeed these noble mysteries, when as they are onely unfaithfully prepared, incorrected poysons, such (as pests in a Common-wealth) deserve a black mark, that they may not be a real scandal and reproach to true sons of Art. To pluck off whose disguise is the end of this tractate. To undeceive also as many as I can who have been seduced by their boastings, and swelling words of vanity, to run too great a hazard of both life and health in trying their unfaithful remedies. For whose satisfactory information, let such learn from me, that the vomitive quality of ♂, and the salivative of ♀, do betray both their natures, as the Devil is reported to be betrayed by his cloven foot, that however they may be disguised, yet their form is not changed, but by an easie art, and in a little time, both may be restored to their pristine form, the ☿ to running quicksilver,

and the ☿ to regulus. No marvel then if the hopes of such as make use of them be deluded to the unexcusable disgrace of the preparers and extollers of such dangerous secrets, whose rashness will, I hope, lie no longer as a blemish on true Pyrotechny, and its Adept Sons.

Besides, these who deal in ☿ and ☿ prepared with trivial mock preparations yet extolling their products to universality in medicine, there is another sort of Chymists, who like Whifflers in a show of Pageantry, serve only to make the Art of Pyrotechny appear ridiculous, some having gotten a knack by mistake esteem it for what it is not, and confidently so report of it, and give out concerning it both by word and writing, others lighting upon some specificks, which may be useful, and prescribed with credit to themselves, and the Art, in such cases for which they are peculiar, do by undue boasting and unreasonable commendations thereof, much bring their own judgement and the credit of the Art they profess, into suspition and question. Of the first sort are they who cry up a spirit of Salt with the highest Elogy due to the benefits kind, which is truely made and prepared,

yet

yet instead of it, sell a pitiful rascal Phlegm of Salt, which hath truely none of the vertues which are duly ascribed to that which is faithfully prepared. Of the true spirit of Salt *Helmonts* testimony is to be understood, that it hath not its peer or fellow for extinguishing the thirst that afflicts feverish persons, as also against the burning sharpness of urine, yea where the bladder is actually oppress with a stone, as also in the stranguries of old persons, that it gradually diminisheth, and pleasantly brings away nephritical gravel and stones. It is also a most excellent Diuretick, and so very helpful in Hydropick, and Scorbutick Cases, cleansing and amending the blood by its balsamick quality. But let the Reader consider what spirit of Salt performs all this. It is that which is distilled from Spanish Salt, first decrepited, then melted in a Crucible, after dissolved among slices of Radish roots, then dried again, and mixt with calcined Potters clay, and distilled by degrees of fire at first, & urged at last with the extream fire of reverberation, and so continued till the Spirits be wholly drawn off. This Spirit is of a pleasant sent, very volatile, ponderous, tincted, and exquisitely cried, yet will not corrode common quicksilver, though in sharpness it equal the most recti-

fied oyl of Vitriol, and in weight, and is so volatile that you can no sooner open the glass, but the fumes in form of a smoak will soon fill the room. Whereas this spirit which lately is cryed up in City and Country, is made of white Salt, not so much as dryed from its moisture, which by lying in the air it contracts. The invention of drawing it, as to the instrument was *Glaubers*, which being of earth lets out all the subtle spirits, giving onely the flegm, which a small trial will demonstrate to any that is ingenious, for let that spirit be rectified with a very gentle fire, and all that is insipid thrown away (for it is worth nothing else) the residue of a whole pound will be so incredibly little, that a man who hath once made the experiment, would wonder at his own levity and vanity, to be deluded by so palpable a trifle, in a thing that concerns not his purse onely, but his health and life also, for by relying on this broken staffe for help, opportunity of seeking out elsewhere is lost, never to be recovered again, and this damage at least is got by promised help, where the thing on which the Patient relies for performance of what he expects, and the Doctor promiseth, cannot perform what it gives hopes of. Such may well be called cruel promises, where the life

is ingaged, and the effect in an ordinary way cannot, nor will answer expectation. Of this sort are several Chymical preparations, as namely *Elixir proprietatis*, the tincture of Corals, the Magistery of Pearls, &c. which have onely the name of *Paracelsus* and *Helmonts* secrets, but are not the things themselves. Such is the potable gold boasted of by some, in which is nothing of remark, but the cheat of it, and disapointment of expectation in him that useth it. Of this sort of potable gold that testimony of *Gideon Harvey* may be very true, that it hath no admirable vertue in it, but by reason of its Corrosive spirits (with which it is prepared) it hath to his knowledge caused dysenteries &c. which is no more then *Helmont* said before him, to wit, that in his Tyrociny he could by Corrosives make gold appear in the disguises of oyl, Vitriol, and a spirit, yet he could never find in those preparations such vertues which the Adept Philosophers ascribe to the preparations of Gold extolled by them, nay rather he found better effect in the decoction of some simple then herein. But at last he perceived that gold without its true proper Corrosive is dead, till (I say) it be radically penetrated by its Corrosive, which as *Paracelsus* saith, is truely more noble then

the gold it self. Nor is it impossible, but Dr. *Harvey* may hereafter come to find another far more secret potable gold, then any he hath seen yet, which may have other vertues then that which he mentions with such deserved contempt. Then he may have a far better est eem of *Helmont* then at present he manifests; when the whimsies of his natural Theology (little better then Scripture Atheism or Ethnick Divinity) his Graphical descriptions of the several divisions of the Chaos, his Metaphysical Dog-Cat, with other pretty Chimera's about fire, and the Elements, shall by riper years be worm'd out of his brain, then he may fall into a more serious consideration of his latter end, set forth to him by the Emblems of his Death-head and flower-pot, and at last perhaps prove a Sober Philosopher. Till then I leave him for answer, to what he hath vomited up in disgrace of *Helmont*, to his further and more judicious reading of him; his Exceptions being so empty and weak, as to deserve no further answer, and his Book of Archeology so pitifully idle, as that it hath not the good luck of those Tractates which have of all others the worst fortune, to contein so much in it of real value, as to requite the Readers time that he spends in reading it.

But

But to leave Dr. *Harvy*, and his potable gold, and come to what we further intend, namely, to discover the abuses under which the Art of Pyrotechny grones, and to disabuse the people who have been, and are deluded by such empty bubbles, in which besides a swelling outside there is nothing but air and vanity. I shall in brief resume what I have said before, and so conclude this my censure of unfaithful Chymical remedies, they are all of them mistakes in art, imposed on the credulous world, for what they are not, of which some are truculent, and lethally dangerous, where, in vain, dangerous subjects are wrought upon, and the true preparation not understood by such Tyro's as too rashly adventure upon the work, yet they extol the products to the heavens for the true secrets of the Adepti, when indeed they are onely false names of rare Arcana's put upon real venoms, where the preparation is not true, nor the product safe, such are *Lockyers* Pill, *Hughs* powder, *Mercurius vitæ*, commonly now known by that name, *Aurum vitæ*, &c. with twenty several impostures of the like nature. Others are safe, being of subjects in which lies no danger, but for want of a due preparati-

on, trivial and sophisticate. Such is *Constantinus* Phlegme of Salt, the common spirit of vitriol, the common Elixir *proprietatis*, Tincture of Coral, Oyl of Amber, yea what spirit or oyl is there, that for gain sake is not adulterated, or the preparation shuffled over, where the true way of doing it is troublesom and difficult, or perhaps not known. Every Tyro at his first entrance on the art of Chymistry, boasts himself straightway for a Colossus in Pyrotechny, and will adventure upon the most hidden mysteries, who knows not the keyes by which natures Cabinet is unlocked. Hence it is, that while many boast of high Arcana's, and yet they and their secrets become at last deservedly contemptible, others who have some particular remedy not usual, with which more real good is done, then with these great mysteries (whose cruel danger makes them at last suspected by all, and abhorred by them, who know and have tried them) they take this opportunity of extolling this rarity of theirs for the Apex of Chymical preparations. Thus spirit of Hartshorn with some, spirit of Soot with others, (called by the name of *ignis vitæ*) spirit of Dead mens bones with a third sort, are ignorantly and unadvisedly commended as

true

true Panpharmaca, and so used by many, whereas they are only urinous spirits, and alterative, of which that of Hartshorn is the best, but nothing comparable to that spirit made of it, by the circulated salt of *Helmont* and *Paracelsus*, by which Hartshorn is turned into a lacteous spirit, and will reach the principles of our constitution, by which means such notable spirits do strengthen the balsom of life, & are powerfully renovative and restoring decayed strength, and the drooping vital spirits. Of this sort are Crabs eys, Pearl, and the stones of vegetables, and animals, the shells also of Crabs, and fishes, yet so as that there are kinds and degrees of goodness among them, but their preparation must be performed by a true Key or agent, and not according to the slender skill of an illiterate Tyro, or ignorant Sciolist. In doing which, the concrets must be resolved by a spontaneous retrograde solution, and the primitive lactiform liquor separated totally from the dissolvent, which is the highest advancement those concretes can be brought to, in which are wonderful excellencies hidden, for such who have an inclination to nephritick Coagulations of gravel, and stranguretical muccous viscidities in the bladder, which inclination though old and obstinate, such Arcana's re-

move

move, and by a restoring vertue confirm the Kidnies and bladder in their pacified state, to the infinite comfort of the patient and credit of the Physitian. Of these and many other true secrets, I shall God willing put forth a discourse intituled, *Helmont* revived, as a forerunner to which it was necessary to send forth this tractate, to undeceive the world, who have long been abused with adulterate rascal preparations, instead of true Chymical Arcana's and medicines, to the injury of deluded patients, and disgrace of the Art, which reproach I doubt not but these lines of mine will for the future wipe off, and remove.

A Conclusion to the Sons of Art and all Ingenious Readers.

THis for the honour of the Art of Pyrotechny, in vindicating its reputation from the reproach cast on it, by Pseudochymists, I thought necessary to send into the world as a forerunner of other plain, full, and faithful tractates, which shall be onely didacticall, and instructive, of which the first which I intend, shall follow this, is a discovery of the two Keyes of Pyrotechny, Viz the Liquor Alchaheſt, and its succedaneum, the true Spirit of Salt of Tartar, to which I shall add by way of appendix, the Anatomies of Amber, Antimony, Mercury, and Saturn, by way of short essayes, not to anticipate or prejudice my Pyrotechny Triumphing, which is a large Volume. Thus at present, Reader, I shall take leave of thee, and recommend

both my own and thy ſtudie, and pains to his bleſſing who onely can make ſucceſsful what we enterprize, and diſcover, truth to the ſtudious and ſerious ſearcher after Natures ſecrets: and ſhall ſubſcribe my ſelf thy faithful friend, Monitor, Inſtructer and Brother,

George Starkey, known by the title of Philoſopher by the fire.

FINIS.